

PRESS RELEASE
IOWA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

For release, March 3, 2005

Recently, the Iowa Board of Medical Examiners took the following action:

Sharon S. Hutchins, D.O., a 51 year-old physician from Polk City, Iowa, had disciplinary charges dismissed by the Board following a disciplinary hearing. On September 2, 2004, the Board charged Dr. Hutchins with consuming alcohol in violation of a Board Order. Dr. Hutchins was originally charged by the Board for substance abuse in November 1987. Dr. Hutchins' Missouri medical license was placed on probation due to substances abuse in March 1990. In the spring of 2003, Dr. Hutchins pleaded guilty in Missouri to criminal charges of misappropriating large quantities of controlled drugs for her own use. Subsequently, her Missouri medical license was suspended for three years. On November 21, 2003, Dr. Hutchins' Iowa medical license was suspended and placed on indefinite probation subject to certain terms and conditions due to substance abuse. At the conclusion of the recent hearing the Board concluded that there was insufficient evidence that Dr. Hutchins consumed alcohol in violation of her Board Order. The Board noted that Dr. Hutchins is not currently practicing medicine and that her license is on indefinite probation subject to significant monitoring conditions for substance abuse.

Julian C. Serrano, M.D., a 51 year-old physician practicing in Des Moines, Iowa, entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Board to resolve pending disciplinary charges. On May 27, 2004, the Board filed disciplinary charges against Dr. Serrano's Iowa medical license based on allegations he engaged in a pattern of sexual harassment of subordinate female co-workers in 2002. The Board charged Dr. Serrano in 1996 with engaging in an inappropriate sexual relationship with the mother of two children he treated in violation of appropriate physician-patient boundaries. Dr. Serrano's Iowa medical license was suspended from April 1996 to June 1998, he underwent a sexual misconduct evaluation and treatment and his license was placed on probation subject to monitoring conditions for sexual misconduct. Dr. Serrano was released from his first probation in May 2002. Under the terms of the new Settlement Agreement, Dr. Serrano was required to complete a sexual misconduct evaluation and treatment and his license was placed on probation for five years subject to monitoring conditions for sexual misconduct.

Barbara J. Shivapour, M.D., a 48 year-old physician formerly practicing in Burlington, Iowa, entered into a combined Statement of Charges and Settlement Agreement with the Board. Dr. Shivapour in the past suffered from a medical illness and self reported that information to the Board. There are no allegations regarding patient care. Dr. Shivapour voluntarily placed her Iowa medical license on inactive status on February 26, 2002. Dr. Shivapour agrees not to provide patient medical care or treatment, serve in a medical capacity with a voluntary nursing program or engage in any aspect of the practice of medicine which requires a medical license until her Iowa medical license has been reinstated by the Board. Dr. Shivapour may perform administrative functions, teach, provide patient education or do medical writing.